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WEST GERMANY: The decision yesterday by the executive committee of the opposition Christian Democrats to support the all-Bundestag resolution on foreign policy presumably clears the way for Bundestag ratification of the Eastern treaties by a substantial majority in parliament tomorrow.

The committee voted 27 to 1 in favor of the ten-point resolution, with one abstention and one absentee. Party chairman Barzel succeeded in dispelling the anxieties of die-hard opponents that Moscow might refuse to acknowledge the resolution or challenge those passages that reaffirm the provisional status of territorial borders and the national goal of self-determination. The party's representatives in parliament and those of its more conservative affiliate, the Christian Social Union, are meeting today and probably will endorse the executive directive. Nevertheless, individual deputies, particularly members of the Christian Social Union from Bavaria, are expected to vote against the treaties tomorrow.

The decision also presages passage of the treaties with Christian Democratic support in the Bundesrat on 19 May. Approval by the upper house of parliament would enable President Heinemann to sign the treaty documents, thereby completing the ratification process.

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SUDAN: President Numayri's clash with the chief of staff of the armed forces may slow the pace of his efforts to build a nationalist-oriented government.

During a meeting with ranking officers last week, Numayri suspended Major General Muhammad Abd-al-Qadir after a rancorous exchange growing out of Numayri's criticism of armed forces' commanders for unspecified irregularities. The suspension of Abd-al-Qadir, a close and trusted adviser of Numayri, has not yet been announced, and the door has been left open for his reinstatement.

Without army support, Numayri could not have moved boldly in the past year to reorient Sudan toward domestic and African concerns and to disengage from pan-Arab involvement. Numayri's dressing down of his army commanders and the suspension of the chief of staff have introduced at least a temporary strain in his relations with the army. He may now be impeded in his efforts to restructure his government along nationalist lines and to make further headway in implementing the agreement with the southern rebels.

Before Numayri's confrontation with his commanders, it had been anticipated that a major reshuffle of the cabinet was in the offing. Among those who were said to be on their way out were two pro-Egyptian former members of the disbanded Revolutionary Command Council who had opposed Sudan's gradual drift away from the Arab world. Numayri's quarrel with senior nationalist army officers sympathetic to the chief of staff, however, risks alienating the indispensable instruments of his Sudan-first policies.

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MALAGASY REPUBLIC: President Tsiranana has adopted conciliatory gestures to end three days of violent antigovernment protests, but sporadic clashes continue between students and security forces.

Tsiranana has ordered the release of students imprisoned on 12 May for their leadership of a three-week-old student strike called to protest government educational policies. He also has agreed to meet a delegation of student leaders to hear their grievances and reportedly is considering a revision of cooperation agreements with France, one of the students' major demands. The president's actions came as a result of yesterday's mass march on the presidential palace in which students were joined for the first time by large numbers of workers and civil servants. The demonstration was accompanied by a general strike that caused the closing of most business firms and many government offices in the capital of Tananarive. On 14 May, following Saturday's violence, Tsiranana replaced the minister of culture, in charge of educational affairs, in response to the students' demand that he appoint a minister sympathetic to their views.

The students and their supporters currently are directing their anger against members of the Republican Security Forces (FRS), the elite paramilitary force responsible for the killing of over 25 persons during weekend rioting. Students have reportedly killed several FRS troopers, and the FRS continue to fire on demonstrators. In contrast, there is increasing evidence that many members of the National Gendarmerie support the students and are refusing to take strong action against the protesters.

The continuing violence may cause Tsiranana to withdraw his offer of negotiations. Government spokesmen have warned students that violence would not be tolerated, but the demonstrators show no signs of dispersing. Tsiranana is likely to balk at expected student demands that steps be taken to curb the FRS.

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NOTES

TURKEY: President Sunay's mandate to Defense Minister and Acting Prime Minister Melen to form a new government, following his rejection Saturday of Suat Urguplu's proposed "national unity" cabinet, reflects the regime's frustration in trying to resolve the current government crisis. The military leaders are determined to get on with the reform program, but paradoxically are unwilling to accept a politically oriented cabinet that could help speed the reforms through parliament. Melen, who apparently has already sufficiently demonstrated his non-partisan outlook in his capacity as interim prime minister, may well draw on the already existing caretaker cabinet, thereby improving the prospect for quickly forming a government and getting the necessary military approval.

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IRAQ: The Baathist regime in Baghdad has appointed two Communists to minor cabinet posts. These token appointments developed out of Saddam Tikriti's drive for a "national charter" government of "progressive" political forces. As provided in the draft, the charter must be accepted by the Kurdish rebel minority. The Kurds, however, have so far refused, despite pressure from the government and the Soviet Union. They are skeptical that the government will ever grant them the limited political autonomy prescribed in the accord of March 1970 that ended the fighting in the Kurdish areas in the north. Whatever the fate of the charter, the Baathists intend to retain full political control of the country, and overt political activity by the Communists and others will continue to be proscribed.

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INDONESIA-JAPAN: Djakarta has agreed to sell Japan 350 million barrels of low sulfur oil over the next ten years. The agreement, concluded during the visit of President Suharto to Tokyo last week, will bring Indonesia an estimated \$100 million in additional revenues annually. With the new agreement, Indonesia will hold its present position as a supplier of some 13 percent of Japan's oil requirements. In addition to paying for the oil, Tokyo will extend a \$207-million soft-term loan for the development of Indonesia's oil industry. The loan will supplement \$185 million in aid pledged for this year by Japan through the Intergovernmental Group for Indonesia.

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